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Republicans urge U.S. universities to cut ties with Chinese-backed scholarship program

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are urging seven U.S. universities to cut ties with a Chinese scholarship program that lawmakers call a "nefarious mechanism" to steal technology for the Chinese government.

In letters to Dartmouth College, the University of Notre Dame and five other universities, leaders of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party raise concerns about the schools' partnerships with the China Scholarship Council, a study abroad program funded by China.

The program sponsors hundreds of Chinese graduate students every year at U.S. universities. After graduating, they're required to return to China for two years. In the letters sent Tuesday, Republicans described it as a threat to national security.

"CSC purports to be a joint scholarship program between U.S. and Chinese institutions; however, in reality it is a CCP-managed technology transfer effort that exploits U.S. institutions and directly supports China's military and scientific growth," wrote Republican Rep. John Moolenaar, chair of the committee.

The Chinese Embassy didn't immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for comment.



Students cross the campus of Dartmouth College, March 5, 2024, in Hanover, N.H.

Associated Press

Dartmouth said Wednesday it has had fewer than 10 participants in the program over the last decade and already had decided to end its participation. Notre Dame said it began the process of terminating its association with the program earlier this year. University of Tennessee said it had also received the letter and was reviewing the committee's request.

Letters were also sent also to Temple University and the University of California campuses in Davis, Irvine and Riverside. The committee said it's opening a review into the program's "infiltration" of U.S. universities and demanded

records related to the program from all seven institutions.

The universities' partnerships with the council bring up to 15 graduate students a year to Dartmouth, along with up to 60 at Temple and 40 at Notre Dame, according to the letters. Some schools split the cost of attendance with China. Dartmouth, for instance, covers 50% of tuition and provides a stipend to doctoral students.

Among other records, lawmakers are demanding documents showing whether scholarship recipients worked on research funded by the U.S. government.

President Donald Trump and House Republicans have stepped up scrutiny of Chinese students coming to the U.S. In May, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States would revoke visas from some Chinese students studying in "critical fields." During his first term, Trump restricted visas for students affiliated with China's "military-civil fusion strategy." Many U.S. universities acknowledge a need to improve research security but caution against treating Chinese scholars with hostility and suspicion, saying only small numbers have been involved in espionage.

China is the second-largest country of origin for foreign students in the U.S., behind only India. In the 2023-24 academic year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the United States. For a majority of them, their college tuition is paid by their families, rather than by the Chinese government. Many stay to work in the U.S., while some return to China after graduation.

Moolenaar has made it a priority to end partnerships between U.S. universities and China. In May, he pressed Duke University to cut its ties with a Chinese university, saying it allowed Chinese students to gain access to federally funded research at Duke. Under pressure from the committee, Eastern Michigan University ended a partnership with two Chinese universities in June.

Last year, House Republicans issued a report finding that hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding had gone toward research that ultimately boosted Chinese advancements in artificial intelligence, semiconductor technology and nuclear weapons. The report argued China's academic collaborations served as a "Trojan horses for technology transfer," accusing China of "insidious" exploitation of academic cooperation. □



A U.S. Army Caisson team carries the casket of Army Capt. Stephanie Rader, during a full military honors conducted by the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment through Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., June 1, 2016.

Associated Press

By **TARA COPP**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army's history is closely tied to its cavalry units, those

soldiers who rode into battle on horseback. But the service announced Tuesday that it's moving toward a future without the ceremonial

Army will end most of its ceremonial horse programs and adopt out the animals

horses and will put most of them up for adoption.

The Army, however, will keep operating the Old Guard ceremonial caisson units at Joint Base San Antonio and Arlington National Cemetery for burial honors. Ceremonial cavalry units will be closed down at bases including Fort Cavazos in Texas, whose horses were showcased during the military parade in Washington on June 14, which was the Army's 250th anniversary and also President Donald Trump's birthday.

Army spokesperson Steve

Warren said other ceremonial units will close at Fort Carson in Colorado, Fort Sill in Oklahoma, Fort Irwin in California, Fort Riley in Kansas and Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

The Army estimates that closing down the units will save about \$2 million a year, and the changes are being made as part of its overall warfighting realignment, Warren said.

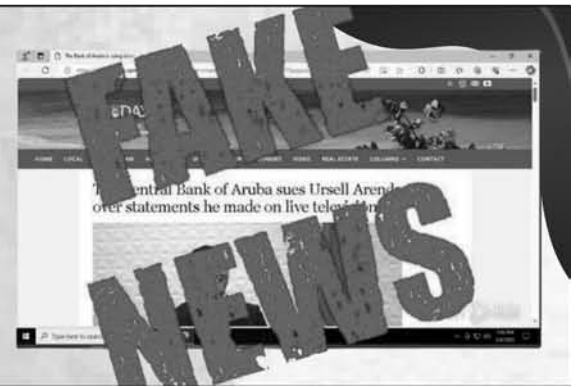
The Trump administration has moved to cut costs across the federal government and directed changes at the Pentagon like reduc-

ing top military leadership positions that it says will promote efficiency. Pentagon leaders have faced pushback from Democratic lawmakers for spending on the deployment of troops to protests in Los Angeles and expected costs to turn a Qatari jet into Air Force One. The Army is giving the affected bases 12 months to shutter the ceremonial cavalry units, and 141 horses will be adopted outside the military, Warren said. Some horses may be donated to organizations, but none will be sold, he said. □

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Trump's trade blitz produces few deals but lots of uncertainty

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his advisers promised a lightning round of global trade negotiations with dozens of countries back in April.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro predicted "90 deals in 90 days." Administration officials declared that other countries were desperate to make concessions to avoid the massive import taxes — tariffs — that Trump was threatening to plaster on their products starting July 9.

But the 90 days have come and gone. And the tally of trade deals stands at two — one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam. Trump has also announced the framework for a deal with China, the details of which remain fuzzy.

Trump has now extended the deadline for negotiations to Aug. 1 and tinkered with his threatened tariffs, leaving the global trading system pretty much where it stood three months ago — in a state of limbo as businesses delay decisions on investments, contracts and hiring because they don't know what the rules will be. "It's a rerun, basically," said William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official who's now an adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. Trump and his team "don't have the deals they want. So they're piling on the threats."

The pattern has repeated itself enough times to earn Trump the label TACO — an acronym coined by The Financial Times' Robert Armstrong that stands for "Trump Always Chickens Out."

"This is classic Trump: Threaten, threaten more, but then extend the deadline," Reinsch said. "July 30 arrives, does he do it again if he still



Cranes and shipping containers are seen at a port in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

doesn't have the deals?" (Trump said Tuesday that there will be no more extensions.)

The deal drought represents a collision with reality. Negotiating simultaneously with every country on earth was always an impossible task, as Trump himself belatedly admitted last month in an interview with the Fox News Channel. ("There's 200 countries," the president said. "You can't talk to all of them.") And many trading partners — such as Japan and the European Union — were always likely to balk at Trump's demands, at least without getting something in return.

"It's really, really hard to negotiate trade agreements," which usually takes several months even when it involves just one country or a small regional group, said Chad Bown, an economic adviser in the Obama White House and now senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "What the administration is doing is negotiating a bunch of these at the same

time."

The drama began April 2 — "Liberation Day," Trump called it — when the tariff-loving president announced a so-called baseline 10% import tax on everybody and what he called "reciprocal" levies of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs trade deficits. The 10% baseline tariffs appear to be here to stay. Trump needs them to raise money to patch the hole his massive tax-cut bill is blasting into the federal budget deficit.

By themselves, the baseline tariffs represent a massive shift in American trade policy: Tariffs averaged around 2.5% when Trump returned to the White House and were even lower before he started raising them in his first term.

But the reciprocal tariffs are an even bigger deal. In announcing them, Trump effectively blew up the rules governing world trade. For decades, the United States and most other countries abided by tariff rates set through a series of complex

negotiations known as the Uruguay round. Countries could set their own tariffs — but under the "most favored nation" approach, they couldn't charge one country more than they charged another.

Now Trump is setting the tariff rates himself, creating "tailor-made trade plans for each and every country on this planet," in the words of White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

But investors have recoiled at the audacious plan, fearing that it will disrupt trade and damage the world economy. Trump's Liberation Day tariffs, for instance, set off a four-day rout in global financial markets. Trump blinked. Less than 13 hours after the reciprocal tariffs took effect April 9, he abruptly suspended them for 90 days, giving countries time to negotiate with his trade team.

Despite the Trump administration's expressions of confidence, the talks turned into a slog.

"Countries have their own politics, their own domes-

tic politics," Reinsch said. "Trump structured this ideally so that all the concessions are made by the other guys and the only U.S. concession is: We don't impose the tariffs."

But countries like South Korea and Japan needed "to come back with something," he said. Their thinking: "We have to get some concessions out of the United States to make it look like this is a win-win agreement and not a we-fold-and-surrender agreement."

Japan, for example, wanted relief from another Trump tariff — 50% levies on steel and aluminum.

Countries may also be hesitant to reach a deal with the United States while the Trump administration conducts investigations that might result in new tariffs on a range of products, including pharmaceuticals and semiconductors.

Frustrated by the lack of progress, Trump on Monday sent letters to Japan, South Korea and 12 other countries, saying he'd hit them with tariffs Aug. 1 if they couldn't reach an agreement. The levies were close to what he'd announced on April 2; Japan's, for example, would be 25%, compared to the 24% unveiled April 2.

Trump did sign an agreement last month with the United Kingdom that, among other provisions, reduced U.S. tariffs on British automotive and aerospace products while opening the U.K. market for American beef and ethanol. But the pact kept the baseline tariff on British products mostly in place, underlining Trump's commitment to the 10% tax despite the United States running a trade surplus — not a deficit — with the U.K. for 19 straight years, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. □

Three Zizians face trial together in Maryland amid sprawling federal investigation



Exterior view of the Allegany County Circuit Court building in Cumberland, Maryland on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, where three members of a violent cultlike group known as Zizians appeared Tuesday for a motions hearing after they were arrested in February on trespassing and gun possession charges.

Associated Press

By **LEA SKENE**
Associated Press

CUMBERLAND, Md. (AP) — Three members of a violent cultlike group, including its alleged ringleader, will be tried together on charges of trespassing, gun and drug possession after police discovered them camping in box trucks in rural western Maryland. The group known as Zizians, which attracted a fringe contingent of computer scientists who connected online over their shared anarchist beliefs, has been linked to six killings spanning three states in recent years. The Maryland cases were originally scheduled for separate trials, but the defendants requested a joint proceeding despite concerns from their attorneys; a judge granted the request following a court hearing Tuesday afternoon. Jack "Ziz" LaSota and her associates Michelle Zajko and Daniel Blank were arrested in February after a man told police that "suspicious" people had parked two box trucks on his property and asked to camp there for a month, according to authorities. The trucks were found in a largely remote wooded area near the Maryland-Pennsylvania line, a mountainous region dotted with small towns. LaSota, a transgender woman who's regarded as the group leader, entered the courtroom Tuesday hoisting a brown paper bag filled with documents.

Throughout the hearing, LaSota and Zajko repeatedly interjected to address the judge directly, disregarding conventional courtroom practices and occasionally speaking over their attorneys. The regular interruptions added to the already unusual circumstances of the case, which hinges on the findings of federal investigators despite being prosecuted in state court. The main issue discussed Tuesday was the timeline of the proceedings. After the trio was arrested in February on trespassing and illegal gun possession charges, prosecutors filed a superseding indictment last month with new allegations, including LSD possession. Defense attorneys argued prosecutors are trying to slow-walk the case while federal authorities continue investigating the Zizians. "Their interest in delaying this trial may be to put something together in another jurisdiction," said attorney George McKinley, who represents Zajko. Zajko also told Allegany County Circuit Court Judge Michael Twigg that she believes the delays are "to stop the death penalty from being carried out in another case" — referring to Teresa Youngblut, another alleged group member who was arrested in the January shooting death of a border patrol agent in Vermont. Allegany County State's At-

torney James Elliott vehemently denied the accusations that Maryland prosecutors are intentionally dragging their feet. He said federal investigators only recently provided his office with test results confirming the presence of LSD, which prompted the superseding indictment.

He also objected to LaSota and Zajko addressing the court, saying it would drag out the proceedings even longer than anticipated. He estimated the joint trial could take at least two weeks.

"This is a motions hearing," he said, exasperated. "It isn't everybody gets to participate."

LaSota, meanwhile, claimed there was "a double standard being applied" in terms of delaying the case. Several times she raised her hand and spoke haltingly, often pausing to search for the right words. At other times, the co-defendants whispered urgently among themselves. LaSota also faces a federal charge of being an armed fugitive. She possessed several firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, according to federal prosecutors in Maryland.

Zajko faces federal firearms charges in Vermont because police allege she purchased weapons recovered in connection with the border patrol agent's killing.

In January 2023, police questioned Zajko after her parents were found shot to death in their Pennsylvania home. She hasn't been charged in their deaths, though LaSota was arrested on obstruction and disorderly conduct charges after police again contacted Zajko at a Pennsylvania hotel. Pennsylvania state police records describe Blank as Zajko's housemate in Vermont.

It's not clear how the trio ended up in the mountains of far western Maryland, where their presence in the close-knit rural community left locals perplexed. Police said they were wearing black tactical gear. □

Philadelphia workers and city reach a deal to end strike that halted residential trash pickup



A man takes trash to a garbage collection site, Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By **MARYCLAIRE DALE** and **TASSANEE VEJPONGSA**
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A union representing thousands of city workers in Philadelphia and the city have reached a deal to end a more than weeklong strike that halted residential curbside trash pickup and affected other services, officials said Wednesday.

Nearly 10,000 blue-collar employees from District Council 33 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees walked off the job July 1, seeking better pay and benefits after negotiations with the city failed.

The tentative agreement gives workers a 3% raise in each of the next three years, far from the union's quest for 5% annual pay hikes. Half of the members will get an additional 2% raise through an added level on the pay scale, Mayor Cherelle Parker said, and most members will qualify by the end of the contract.

Residential trash collection will resume Monday, according to Parker, who asked for "grace" as pools, libraries, recreation centers and other services get back to normal.

"This is a very significant investment in our employees while at the same time ensuring that we as a city are living by our means," Parker said at a news conference. District Council 33 is the largest of four major unions representing city workers. Its membership includes 911 dispatchers, trash collectors, water department workers and many others. Police and firefighters weren't part of the strike.

Parker said that over her four-year term, DC33 workers will have received a total pay bump of 14%, including a 5% one-year hike she gave all four unions after taking office last year.

Many residents seemed to support boosting the pay of DC33 workers, even as trash piled up in neighborhoods. The union says they earn an average \$46,000 a year. Union members must still ratify the agreement.

Rich Henkels, an actor who just moved into the city, called the settlement "disappointing."

"The announced raises do nothing for the workers and their families, as the increases will be less than the rate of inflation," said Henkels, 64.

The settlement was announced early on the ninth day of the strike, a period that included the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Some of the 60 drop-off centers that the city had designated for residential trash were overflowing. Most libraries and some pools across the city were closed, and recreation centers operated on reduced hours.

Last week, judges had sided with the city in ordering some critical employees back to work at the city's 911 centers, water department and airport.

"We did the best we could with the circumstances we had in front of us," union President Greg Boulware told reporters in brief remarks Wednesday morning. □

Malaysian PM warns Southeast Asia that trade war is not a 'passing storm'

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned Wednesday that global trade is being weaponized as Southeast Asia's foreign ministers held annual talks ahead of the looming threat of U.S. trade tariffs.

Concerns about U.S. tariffs have jolted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 10-member bloc that includes some of the world's most trade-dependent economies.

Six ASEAN members are among the 14 countries that could see duties on their exports to the U.S. skyrocket on Aug. 1.

Launching the group's foreign ministers' meeting, Anwar said the world is now witnessing an era where "power unsettles principle" and "tools once used to generate growth are now wielded to pressure, isolate and contain."

Without mentioning the U.S. by name, he again urged ASEAN to work together to respond to trade threats.

"Our cohesion must not end at declarations," he said, calling for members to



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim delivers his keynote address during the opening ceremony of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' meeting and related meetings at the Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Associated Press

increase intra-ASEAN trade, invest in regional integration, and reduce strategic dependencies on external powers.

"This is no passing storm," he said. "It is the new weather of our time."

Trump first announced tariffs in April, but then delayed them for 90 days to allow for deals to be negotiated.

On Tuesday, he announced new tariffs with rates of between 25%-40% on 14 countries, which will go into effect Aug. 1 unless new deals are struck. He also threatened to increase tariffs if any countries retaliate.

Many ASEAN members have launched bilateral talks with the U.S., but officials have said they plan

to hold an ASEAN-U.S. summit later this year to seek a common position.

So far, only Vietnam has secured a deal, bringing down its tariffs from 46% to 20%.

The list threatens 36% tariffs for Thailand and Cambodia, 32% for Indonesia, 25% for Malaysia, and 40% for Laos and war-torn Myanmar.

Reacting to the economic headwinds, Malaysia's central bank on Wednesday cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in five years.

Separately, Trade Minister Zafrul Aziz said Malaysia will continue tariff talks with the U.S. but won't compromise on issues impacting national interest and sovereignty. He referred to U.S. requests on policy and laws in areas such as government procurement, halal certification, medical standards and digital tax, without giving details.

"It has to be fair ... if the deal does not benefit Malaysia, we should not have a deal," he said.

In addition to confronting trade fallout, the bloc faces mounting internal challenges including the ongoing civil war in Myanmar and a border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

The gathering in Malaysia will be immediately followed by a series of critical meetings with ASEAN's major trade partners, including the U.S., China, Japan, Russia, India, and the European Union, scheduled for Thursday and Friday. □

U.S. issues sanctions against U.N. investigator probing abuses in Gaza

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The Trump administration announced it is issuing sanctions Wednesday against an independent investigator tasked with probing human rights abuses in the Palestinian territories, the latest effort by the United States to punish critics of Israel's 21-month war in Gaza.

The State Department's decision to sanction Francesca Albanese, the U.N. special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza, comes after a recent U.S. pressure campaign to force the international body to remove her from her post failed.

Albanese, a human rights lawyer, has been vocal about what she has described as the "genocide" that Israel is waging against Palestinians in Gaza. Both Israel and the U.S., which provides military support, have strongly denied that accusation.

In recent weeks, Albanese has issued a series of letters, urging other countries to pressure Israel, including through sanctions, to end its deadly bombardment of the Gaza Strip. The Italian national has also been a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court's indictment against Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for war crimes.

She most recently issued a report naming several U.S. giants among companies aiding what she described as Israel's occupation and war on Gaza.

"Albanese's campaign of political and economic warfare against the United States and Israel will no longer be tolerated," Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on social media. "We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defense."

Albanese has been the target of criticism from pro-Israel officials and groups in the U.S. and in the Middle East. Last week, the U.S. mission to the U.N. issued a scathing statement, calling for her removal for "a

years-long pattern of virulent anti-Semitism and unrelenting anti-Israel bias." The statement said that Al-

banese's allegations of Israel committing genocide or apartheid are "false and offensive." □



Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, talks to the media during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, July 11, 2023.

Associated Press

Jailed Kurdish militant leader urges PKK fighters to disarm before a symbolic peace ceremony

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

The jailed leader of a Kurdish militant group renewed Wednesday a call for his fighters to lay down their arms, days before a symbolic disarmament ceremony is expected to take place as a first concrete step in a peace process with the Turkish state.

In a seven-minute video message broadcast on media close to the militants, Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, declared that the peace initiative had reached a stage that required practical steps.

"It should be considered natural for you to publicly ensure the disarmament of the relevant groups in a way that addresses the expectations of the (Turkish parliament) and its commission, dispels public doubts, and fulfills our commitments," Ocalan said. "I believe in the power of politics and social peace, not weapons. And I call on you to put this principle into practice."



Youngsters hold a photograph of Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the militant Kurdish group, or PKK, in Diyarbakir, Turkey, Feb. 27, 2025.

In his video message his first public appearance since being seen during his trial more than two decades ago Ocalan, 76, also expressed his support for the establishment of a parliamentary committee to help oversee the peace initiative.

The PKK leader, who has

been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, first urged the PKK in February to convene a congress and formally dissolve itself.

Responding to his call, the PKK announced in May that it would disband and renounce armed conflict, ending four decades of

hostilities.

Ocalan's call to end the fighting marked a pivotal step toward ending the decades-long conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since the 1980s.

His message broadcast on Wednesday appeared to be aimed at convincing

Associated Press

fighters who may still be hesitant about abandoning armed struggle. He delivered his message flanked by fellow inmates.

In a speech to lawmakers from his ruling party, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he expected imminent progress in the peace initiative, adding that once firmly established, the effort would benefit not only Turkey but the broader region. Erdogan also expressed hope that the process would advance without attempts to sabotage it.

"Once the wall of terror is torn down, God willing, everything will change. More pain and tears will be prevented," Erdogan said. "The winners of this (process) will be the whole of Turkey Turks, Kurds and Arabs. Then it will be our entire region."

"We hope that this auspicious process will conclude successfully as soon as possible, without any road accidents, and without it being sabotaged by dark and corrupt circles," he said. □

South Korea sends 6 rescued North Koreans back across sea border

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

South Korea sent six North Koreans back across the rivals' sea border on Wednesday morning,

months after they drifted south in wooden boats in March and May. It came after months of failed efforts to contact North Korea to coordinate the repatriation of the six in-

dividuals, who officials say consistently expressed a desire to go back. Despite the lack of communication, a North Korean patrol boat appeared at the handover point as the six individuals headed back aboard a repaired wooden boat, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

What would have been a routine event in years past was complicated by the North's decision to cut off communications with the South in recent years. North Koreans have occasionally drifted south in wooden boats before, sometimes accidentally and sometimes with the intention of defecting. In most previous cases, the two Koreas coordinated to send those who wished to turn back across the land border. South Korea twice

informed the North of its intention to repatriate the North Koreans on Wednesday through the U.S.-led United Nations Command, but received no response, the ministry said.

South Korean authorities are also investigating a North Korean man who crossed the heavily fortified land border between the Koreas on Friday and was taken into custody by South Korean troops. South Korean officials have not disclosed whether the man expressed a desire to settle in the South. North Korea has effectively suspended almost all diplomacy and direct communication with South Korea following the collapse of its nuclear negotiations with Washington in 2019. Relations between the Koreas have worsened since 2022 as North Korean

leader Kim Jong Un used Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate his nuclear weapons and missile programs, while also sending troops and military equipment to support Russia's war effort.

South Korea's previous conservative government responded to the growing North Korean threat by expanding combined military exercises with the United States and Japan, which the North condemned as invasion rehearsals.

Border tensions have flared in recent months as the two Koreas traded Cold War-style psychological warfare, with North Korea sending thousands of trash-filled balloons toward the South and South Korea blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda through loudspeakers. □



In this photo provided by South Korea Unification Ministry, a wooden boat carrying North Korean individuals move northward in the East Sea, South Korea, as South Korea sent the North Koreans back across their sea border, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle



Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with

the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another

great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular

canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell!...

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.



The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.□

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



BUSHIRI
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Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells,



which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian

mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba"

trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □

Lessons from our elders:

Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato

let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw



the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at Costa Linda Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority was delighted to recently honor the Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was presented with a certificate in recognition of her many years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador

Mrs. Beverly Sue Meyer from Titusville, Florida, USA.

Mr. Jorgino Willems, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree were:

- Aruba's climate.
- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's sea and sand.
- Aruba's great food.
- Aruba's history

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.



In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



Board & Staff

Extend their deepest condolences to the Arends family
for their immense loss.



Dr. Roderick G. "Rory" Arends

As former Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and later as CEO of Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA), Rory was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors.

We remember Rory for his integrity, kindness, and lasting impact as one of the pioneers on Aruba's tourism industry. His legacy will continue to inspire us.

A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse

at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many

years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the



light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the light-

house rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) - Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun

aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and div-



ers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane

Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with



Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo'

stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba



that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □



CROSSWORD

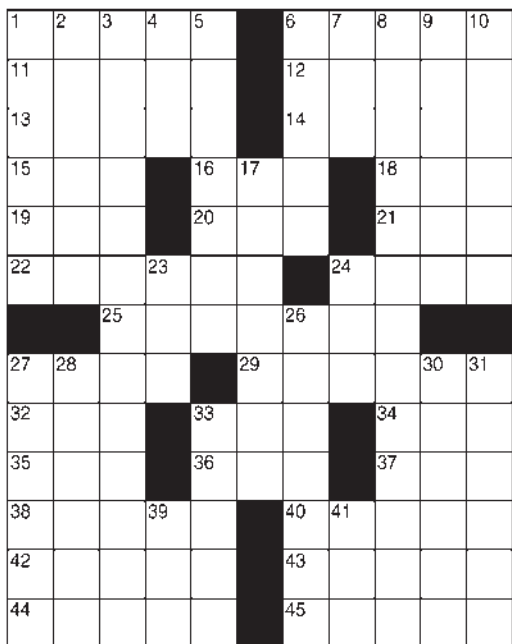
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 38 Home in the country
6 Jazz bits
11 Cupid's missile
12 Flynn of films
13 Singer Cara
14 Plow pioneer
15 PC-linking system
16 Outback bird
18 TV's "Science Guy" Bill
19 Series-ending abbr.
20 Cowboy nickname
21 Beat walker
22 Showy flower
24 Hence
25 Asian nation
27 Fellow
29 High hits
32 Sought a seat
33 Deep hole
34 Plop down
35 French friend
36 That lady
37 Pot fill

DOWN

- 1 Saluted
2 Book blunders
3 Ice cream choice
4 Cargo unit
5 Honey touch
6 Brought back
7 Hot blood
8 Tangy for
9 Gift giver's words
10 Sacks out
17 Cornish awl
23 Pert talk
24 Light touch
26 Zero evidence
27 Longs for
28 Mark of "Star Wars"
30 Use an
31 Put into words
33 Aspect
39 Tipsy
41 Sewing aid



7-14

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

T E R S K S I B T N D K P R C .

T V R R S I B T K R L R L X R K .

T B D S I B T Z I B R K V C S I B .

— V D Z K H R D X V H Z K R

Cryptoquote: FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE THE WHOLE STAIRCASE. — MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



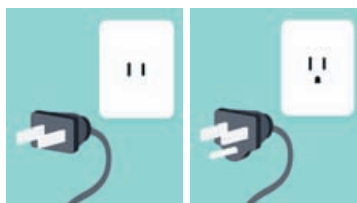
Cruise ship Schedule: July 02 - 16 2025

				ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS		08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS		06.00	****	E	1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - Dept.		****	22.30	E	-
TUE	08	CARNIVAL HORIZON		09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	09	FREEWINDS		06.00	****	E	1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - Dept.		****	22.30	E	-
TUE	15	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS		07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	16	OASIS OF THE SEAS		11.00	23.00	I	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA		08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS		08.00	23.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS		06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from

the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

7/10

Answer to previous puzzle

6	7	9	8	1	4	5	2	3
3	2	5	6	9	7	1	4	8
8	4	1	2	3	5	6	7	9
9	5	7	1	4	6	8	3	2
4	6	3	7	2	8	9	5	1
1	8	2	3	5	9	4	6	7
5	3	6	9	7	1	2	8	4
7	9	8	4	6	2	3	1	5
2	1	4	5	8	3	7	9	6

Difficulty: ★★★

7/9

AI kingpin Nvidia crowned as first public company with a \$4 trillion valuation

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Silicon Valley chipmaker Nvidia on Wednesday became the first publicly traded company to surpass a \$4 trillion market valuation, putting the latest exclamation point on the investor frenzy surrounding an artificial intelligence boom powered by its industry-leading processors.

Although Nvidia's market value dipped back below \$4 trillion by the time the stock market closed, reaching the milestone highlighted the upheaval being unleashed by an AI craze that's widely viewed as the biggest tectonic shift in technology since Apple co-founder Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone 18 years ago.

Underscoring the changing of the guard, AI bellwether Nvidia is now worth \$900 billion more than Apple, which rode the iPhone's success to become the first publicly traded company to valued at \$1 trillion, \$2 trillion and eventually, \$3 trillion.

Nvidia's rise as come as Apple has struggled to deliver on its ambitions to infuse the iPhone and other products with more AI with an array of new features that included a more than



NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang delivers his keynote address Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at the Vivattech fair in Paris.

Associated Press

year-old promise to smarten up its often bumbling virtual assistant Apple acknowledged last month that delivering on its AI vision is going to take until at least next year, leading some industry analysts to wonder if the company will have to acquire an AI start-up to regain momentum. In the meantime, former Apple design guru Jony Ive has joined forces with OpenAI to work on a wearable AI device that could challenge the iPhone while Nvidia has been scrambling to meet the feverish demand for its specialized chips that power the energy-intensive data centers underlying artificial intelligence. □

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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'Lord of the Rings' director backs long shot de-extinction plan, starring New Zealand's lost moa

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Film-maker Peter Jackson owns one of the largest private collections of bones of an extinct New Zealand bird called the moa. His fascination with the flightless ostrich-like bird has led to an unusual partnership with a biotech company known for its grand and controversial plans to bring back lost species.

On Tuesday, Colossal Biosciences announced an effort to genetically engineer living birds to resemble the extinct South Island giant moa which once stood 12 feet (3.6 meters) tall with \$15 million in funding from Jackson and his partner Fran Walsh. The collaboration also includes the New Zealand-based Ngāi Tahu Research Centre.

"The movies are my day job, and the moa are my fun thing I do," said Jackson. "Every New Zealand schoolchild has a fascination with the moa."

Outside scientists say the idea of bringing back ex-



A depiction is represented of the largest species of moa, the South Island giant moa, which once could stand 12 feet (3.6 meters) tall.

Associated Press

inct species onto the modern landscape is likely impossible, although it may be feasible to tweak the genes of living animals to have similar physical traits. Scientists have mixed feelings on whether that will be helpful, and some worry that focusing on lost creatures could distract from protecting species that still exist. The moa had roamed

New Zealand for 4,000 years until they became extinct around 600 years ago, mainly because of overhunting. A large skeleton brought to England in the 19th century, now on display at the Yorkshire Museum, prompted international interest in the long-necked bird.

Unlike Colossal's work with dire wolves, the moa project

is in very early stages. It started with a phone call about two years ago after Jackson heard about the company's efforts to "de-extinct" or create genetically similar animals to — species like the woolly mammoth and the dire wolf.

Then Jackson put Colossal in touch with experts he'd met through his own moa

bone-collecting. At that point, he'd amassed between 300 and 400 bones, he said.

In New Zealand, it's legal to buy and sell moa bones found on private lands, but not on public conservation areas nor to export them. The first stage of the moa project will be to identify well-preserved bones from which it may be possible to extract DNA, said Colossal's chief scientist Beth Shapiro. Those DNA sequences will be compared to genomes of living bird species, including the ground-dwelling tinamou and emu, "to figure out what it is that made the moa unique compared to other birds," she said.

Colossal used a similar process of comparing ancient DNA of extinct dire wolves to determine the genetic differences with gray wolves. Then scientists took blood cells from a living gray wolf and used CRISPR to genetically modify them in 20 different sites. Pups with long white hair and muscular jaws were born late last year. □



This photo provided by researchers shows a pottery vessel containing the remains of a man, radiocarbon dated to around 2855-2570 cal BCE, in Nuwayrat, Egypt. (John Garstang, Mahmoud Abd El Gelel/Garstang Museum of Archaeology/University of Liverpool via Associated Press)

Ancient DNA shows genetic link between Egypt and Mesopotamia

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ancient DNA has revealed a genetic link between the cultures of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, according to research published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Researchers sequenced whole genomes from the teeth of a remarkably well-preserved skeleton found in a sealed funeral pot in an Egyptian tomb site dating to between 4,495 and 4,880 years ago.

Four-fifths of the genome showed links to North Africa and the region around Egypt. But a fifth of the genome showed links to the area in the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, known as the Fertile Crescent, where Mesopotamian civilization flourished.

"The finding is highly significant" because it "is the first direct evidence of what has been hinted at" in prior work," said Daniel Antoine, curator of Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum.

Earlier archeological evidence has shown trade links between Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as similarities in pottery-making techniques and pictorial writing systems.

While resemblances in dental structures suggested possible ancestral links, the new study clarifies the genetic ties.

The Nile River is "likely to have acted as an ancient superhighway, facilitating the movement of not only cultures and ideas, but people," said Antoine, who was not involved in the study. The skeleton was found in an Egyptian tomb complex at the archaeological site of Nuwayrat, inside a chamber carved out from a rocky hillside.

An analysis of wear and tear on the skeleton and the presence of arthritis in specific joints indicates the man was likely in his 60s and may have worked as a potter, said co-author and bioarchaeologist Joel Irish of Liverpool John Moores University.

The man lived just before or near the start of ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom, when Upper and Lower Egypt were unified as one state, leading to a period of relative political stability and cultural innovation including the construction of the Giza pyramids.

"This is the time that centralized power allowed the formation of ancient Egypt as we know it," said co-author Linus Girdland-Flink, a paleogeneticist at the University of Aberdeen. □

Evenepoel's stunning time trial win as Pogačar takes Tour de France yellow jersey

CAEN, France (AP) — Race-against-the-clock specialist Remco Evenepoel produced a stunning display of power to win the first time trial of the Tour de France on Wednesday and defending champion Tadej Pogačar cemented his favorite status by grabbing the yellow jersey.

Evenepoel, the reigning time trial Olympic and world champion, was expected to win the stage in the absence of time trial specialists Filippo Ganna and Stefan Bissegger, who both crashed and exited the race on the first day of the Tour last week.

The mainly flat 33-kilometer (20.5-mile) stage 5 in Normandy favored powerful riders like Evenepoel, who already had won a time trial in a similar fashion last year, when the Belgian rider finished third overall in the general classification.

Evenepoel, who has fully recovered from multiple injuries sustained in a big crash last year, was 16 seconds faster than Pogačar. Edoardo Affini, the time trial European champion, was third, 33 seconds off the pace.

Tucked on his bike in a perfect aerodynamic position, Evenepoel was in a class of his own. He made the most of the back wind in the second half of the race, reach-



Belgium's Remco Evenepoel crosses the finish line during the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time-trial over 33 kilometers (20.5 miles) with start and finish in Caen, France, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

ing the finish at an average speed of more than 54 kph (33.5 mph).

"I didn't really feel like I could go any faster," Evenepoel said.

But the day's big winner was Pogačar, who was back in the yellow jersey a day after taking his 100th career win. The three-time Tour winner opened a big gap on his main rival Jonas Vingegaard, who endured a bad day and lost more than one minute to his rival from Slovenia.

Pogačar, the UAE Team Emirates-XRG leader, blasted off the starting ramp and set up a very high tempo from the start. He could not match Evenepoel's performance but his strong challenge put him at the top of the overall standings, with a 42-second lead over Evenepoel. Frenchman Kévin Vauquelin was in third place overall, 59 seconds off the pace.

"To be 16 seconds behind the world champion, Olympic champion, the best time

trialist probably right now in the world, I'm super, super happy," Pogačar said. "I lost a little bit to Remco but gained on the others, it's a very good day."

Pogačar found himself holding the yellow jersey, the green jersey for best sprinter and the polka dot jersey for best climber. It's unclear whether Pogačar will want to defend the yellow jersey so early in the race before the big mountain stages.

"The most important is the yellow, and to have it on the

Champs-Élysées on the finish line in Paris," Pogačar said. Evenepoel was satisfied that he moved up to second place overall, yet downplayed his chances of winning the Tour.

"It's a big step towards the podium but there's still a long way to go," Evenepoel said. "Everybody knows what's coming next week and the week after. One year, I will come to win the Tour but it's a bit too early this year."

Vingegaard was never in the mix and now lags 1:13 behind Pogačar, in fourth place overall. Previous leader Mathieu van der Poel, who was under no illusion he could keep the coveted yellow jersey, dropped to sixth place, 1:28 back.

Grischa Niermann, the head of racing at Vingegaard's Team Visma-Lease a Bike, said the Danish rider "did not have enough power today."

Thursday's stage Stage 6 will take the peloton from Bayeux to Vire in a region of France known as Norman Switzerland featuring some high hills and stunning views. The stage finale should be spectacular with the Côte de Vaudry likely to feature some attacks from top contenders before an uphill finish with a 10% gradient. □

Associated Press

Zach McKinstry picked as AL All-Star sub as Tigers tie Dodgers for most picks for Midsummer Classic

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

The Detroit Tigers have the best record in the majors. Now they are tied for having the most All-Stars, too.

Zach McKinstry was picked Wednesday to replace Astros shortstop Jeremy Peña, who has been dealing with a rib injury. The infielder-outfielder will join Detroit second baseman Gleyber Torres and outfielders Javier Báez and Riley Greene — all AL starters — and staff ace Tarik Skubal, who also is among the candidates to start the All-Star Game on Tuesday night in Atlanta. Meanwhile, Houston third baseman Isaac Paredes

was picked Wednesday to replace the Guardians' José Ramírez, who had been the starting third baseman. That gives the Astros four All-Stars in Peña and pitchers Hunter Brown and Josh Hader.

The Guardians said Ramírez wanted "to focus on recovery and preparation for the second half of the season." The five All-Stars for Detroit is tied for the most with the World Series champion Dodgers, who have DH Shohei Ohtani, catcher Will Smith and first baseman Freddie Freeman starting for the NL along with pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

Yamamoto is scheduled to

start Sunday for Los Angeles, so Reds left-hander Andrew Abbott has been picked to replace him.

McKinstry and Paredes make four total replacements and 69 players between the two All-Star teams. The other substitution was Rays third baseman Junior Caminero for Boston's Alex Bregman, who has been dealing with a strained right quadriceps. The Tigers have been one of the surprise stories of the first half of the season. After going 86-76 and tying for second in the AL Central last season, 6 1/2 games behind the division-winning Guardians, they were off to



Detroit Tigers' Trey Sweeney, left, celebrates with Zach McKinstry, right, after a win over the Tampa Bay Rays in a baseball game Monday, July 7, 2025, in Detroit.

Associated Press

a 59-34 start heading into Wednesday night's series finale against Tampa Bay —

three games ahead of the Dodgers for the best record in the majors. □

Iga Swiatek's first Wimbledon semifinal comes against Belinda Bencic. Djokovic to face Sinner

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Iga Swiatek reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over 19th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova that went from a stroll to a bit of a struggle in the late stages Wednesday.

"Even though I'm in the middle of the tournament, I already got goosebumps after this win," said Swiatek, who will face unseeded Belinda Bencic on Thursday for a spot in the final. "I'm super happy and super proud of myself."

Bencic beat No. 7 Mirra Andrejeva 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal since the 2019



Iga Swiatek of Poland celebrates winning the women's singles quarter final match against Liudmila Samsonova of Russia at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Associated Press

U.S. Open. The other women's semifinal is No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka against No. 13 Amanda Anisimova; they advanced with wins Tuesday.

"It doesn't end here," Bencic said.

There will be quite a showdown in the men's semifinals Friday, when 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic takes on No. 1 Jannik Sinner. Djokovic ended up face-down in the grass at Centre Court on a late fall but that didn't prevent him from beating No. 22 Flavio Cobolli 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 Wednesday. Sinner defeated No. 10 Ben Shelton 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4 while showing barely any signs of the right elbow injury he picked up on a tumble during his previous match.

The other men's matchup Friday is two-time defending champ Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 5 Taylor Fritz.

Swiatek is a five-time major champion, with four of those titles on the red clay of the French Open, and the other on the hard courts of the U.S. Open. She's also twice been a semifinalist at the hard-court Australian Open.

The grass courts of the All England Club always had given her the most trouble as a pro, even though she did claim a junior championship there in 2018. In her five appearances in the Wimbledon women's bracket before this year, she had made it as far as the quarterfinals just once, exiting in that round in 2023.

But the 24-year-old from Poland is enjoying a career-best run on the slick surface, thanks in part to being more comfortable with the footing required.

"I, for sure, feel like I really worked hard to progress here on this surface," Swiatek said. "So this year, I feel like I can just work with it and work with myself. I'll just keep doing that."

Before the start of Wimbledon, Swiatek was the runner-up in Bad Homburg, Germany. □



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